

School Choice in H.R. 1, As Reported

From the Committee Talking Points:

“PRESIDENT BUSH’S SAFETY VALVE INITIATIVE

- Before giving parents the option of sending their children to another school, H.R. 1 gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial and other technical assistance to improve and increase student achievement.
- **Immediate Public School Choice:** If a school does not make adequate yearly progress after one year, the district must implement certain corrective actions to improve the school, such as replacing certain staff, as well as offer public school choice to all students in the failing school.
- **Supplementary Educational Services – Including Tutoring by Faith-Based Providers:** The measure allows parents to use Title I funds to provide supplementary educational services – including tutoring, after school services, and summer school programs -- for their children. Parents will choose from a list of providers that meet certain criteria, including **private faith-based providers.**”

From the Bill Text:

“(E) PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE.—In the case of a school identified for school improvement under subparagraph (A), the local educational agency shall, not later than the first day of the school year following identification, provide all students enrolled in the school with the option **to transfer to another public school within the local educational agency, including a public charter school,** that has not been identified for school improvement under subparagraph (A), **unless such an option is prohibited by State law.**” (Emphasis Added)

“(9) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—In any case described in paragraph (6)(D)(i) and (7)(A)(ii)(I) if all public schools in the local educational agency to which a child may transfer to, are identified for school improvement, the agency shall, **to the extent practicable,** establish a cooperative agreement with other local educational agencies in the area for a transfer.” (Emphasis Added)

Supplemental Educational Services:

“(6) CRITERIA FOR PROVIDERS.—In order for a provider to be included on the State list under paragraph (5)(c), a provider shall agree to the following:

“(A) Provide parents of children receiving supplemental instructional services under this paragraph and the appropriate local educational agency with information on the progress of their children in increasing achievement, in a format and, to the extent practicable, a language such parents can understand.

“(B) **Ensure that instruction and content used by the provider is consistent with the instruction and content used by the local educational agency and State.**

“(C) Require a provider to meet all applicable Federal, State, and local health, safety and civil rights laws.

“(D) **Ensure that all instruction and content under this paragraph shall be secular, neutral, and nonideological.**” (Emphasis Added)